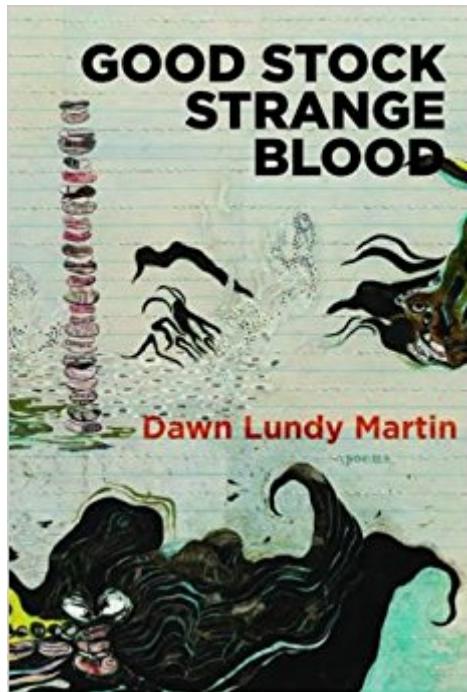


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Good Stock Strange Blood



Synopsis

From Good Stock Strange Blood: And, yet, each morning a fireheart grief in the body coming out of sleep. The listening to the smoke as if fills and weeps inside the chest, choking strength out hands weighted, dangling. We wonder where else it lives before it fills the body up. We assume it comes inside through the hole that promises invasion. Lundy Martin is author of *A Gathering of Matter / A Matter of Gathering* and *DISCIPLINE*, which was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize and the Lambda Literary Award.

Book Information

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: Coffee House Press (July 25, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1566894719

ISBN-13: 978-1566894715

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 0.4 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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Customer Reviews

“In her latest collection, Martin contemplates the corporeal aspects of black identity, including scars from historical traumas and pain from fresher wounds . . . In this esoteric and ruminative work, God is shown to be present in the midst of a host of desires and griefs both great and small.” Publishers Weekly “Martin uses a whiplash of short, punched-at-us phrases that offer a powerful sense of African American history and the struggle to define oneself for oneself, not as others would . . . An important work for sophisticated readers.” Library Journal, “Poetry Beyond the Basics: Twelve New Collections Offer Fresh Perspective on the Human Experience” “Every time I read Good Stock Strange Blood, a new, deepened book awaits me. Which is to say, it’s got trap doors, trick sleeves; it takes swerves, detours, and dives. Dawn Lundy Martin’s poems read like a real-time excavation of what poetry can and can’t do; how the past is never past; how to stand in the blur, the griefmouth of personal

and collective pain and somehow—against all odds—make thought, make fury, make song. We need this resilience, this bloody reckoning, this wit and nuance, now. Maggie Nelson, author of *The Red Parts*—“What this book wants, writes Dawn Lundy Martin, is to know —the distance between the —I and the —you.” And to try to know this distance we are taken through the catastrophe of what it means to have a body: a body that is assigned its identity, a body that is assigned its history, a body in constant resistance to that which we are called and to that which we call ourselves, and to that which we understand about ourselves, and to that which we have no words for. I read *Good Stock Strange Blood* and then I read it again immediately because I needed to relive the relentless and beautiful pressure placed on every word, every page, every silence. A relentless pressure placed on the body that is fetishized, shackled, split, strangled, beaten, hated, compressed, trashed, drowned, measured, mirrored, dragged, discarded, disappeared, opened, punctured, displayed, encased. The question of —what allows the body to survive— is at the heart of *Good Stock Strange Blood*, and it has been at the heart of Lundy Martin’s previous books as well (*Discipline*, *Life in a Box is a Pretty Life*). But if there— as a continuation of interrogations, then it must also be said that in *Good Stock Strange Blood* there is a more mesmerizing intensity. And if there— as an answer in this book to the question of what allows a body to survive, then perhaps it has to do with how we confront and give words and breath and sound and silence to a life of meticulously drawn images that are ghostly, brutal, and vivifying. Daniel Borzutzky—“What is life— against the quantifying of power? The partitioning of dearth?” I read *Good Stock Strange Blood* with the echo of Albert Woodfox’s recent words in my head (—How do you want me to know how it feels to be free?). Martin’s tender and defiant gesture in these unshakable poems is to open and open, relentlessly, into rage and desire, into blackness and —blackness— (—the —black bits— will be excisable, quotable in reviews—), into an AfroFuture where —existence inside of both loss and abundance— might no longer feel impossible: —No death. But, instead, the door. There is a project here, one that acknowledges and confronts the —failure of images, the constraints of the book, the limitations of the reader— [to] excise life from the relations of power. I want everyone I know to read this book. Anna Moschovakis—“Dawn Lundy Martin is a young essential voice in American poetry— one many of us have been waiting for.” Diesel Bookstore Oakland, Newsletter, —Books of the

WeekÃ¢â• pick by bookseller Brad“Every time I read Good Stock Strange Blood, a new, deepened book awaits me. Which is to say, itÃ¢â•â„¢s got trap doors, trick sleeves; it takes swerves, detours, and dives. Dawn Lundy MartinÃ¢â•â„¢s poems read like a real-time excavation of what poetry can and canÃ¢â•â„¢t do; how the past is never past; how to stand in the blur, the ‘griefmouthÃ¢â•â„¢ of personal and collective pain and somehow—against all odds—make thought, make fury, make song. We need this resilience, this bloody reckoning, this wit and nuance, now.Ã¢â•â„¢Maggie Nelson, author of The Red Parts

Dawn Lundy Martin, an essayist and award-winning poet is author of *A Gathering of Matter / A Matter of Gathering* (2007) and *DISCIPLINE* (Nightboat Books 2011), which was selected by Fanny Howe for the Nightboat Books Poetry Prize and was a finalist for both Los Angeles Times Book Prize and the Lambda Literary Award. Her most recent collection is *Life in a Box is a Pretty Life* (Nightboat Books 2015). Martin is also a co-founder of the Black Took Collective, an experimental performance art/poetry group of three (with Ronaldo Wilson and Duriel Harris), and a member of HOWDOYOU SAY YAMINA AFRICAN? global arts collective. She is Associate Professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh.

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